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CONFIDENTIALCENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT The Maardu Phosphorite Mines In Estonia

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1. "The following information dates through [REDACTED] 25X1A
2. "The Maardu phosphorite mines in Estonia are one of the two places in the USSR where phosphorite is produced. The other place is on the Kola peninsula. Maardu is situated about 15 km east of Tallinn in the bay of Ihasalu. /sic/.
3. "The Maardu Chemical Combine - as the plant is called - produces raw material for the war industry and the artificial fertilizers such as phosphorite flour and superphosphate as well as bitumen. The combine consists of underground mines, sifting installations, and grinding mills. The workers and technical personnel total about 1500 whereof over 800 are women. About 500 of the latter are prisoners from a forced labor camp in the grounds of the plant.
4. "Work at Maardu proceeds in three shifts; there are 14-18 drifts. The mines are provided with modern equipment. The first to go into a drift are the drillers; followed by the 'blowers' who fill the drilled holes with explosive and detonate it. Last come the loaders who shovel the phosphorite into wagons carted away by electric engines.
5. "The raw phosphorite is first dried and then sifted, the sand falling through the sieves and the phosphorite (petrified shells of a prehistoric mollusk) remaining on them. This is sorted in turn by means of sieves and wind. The better quality is sent to war industries while the inferior one is ground to fertilizer. Maardu supplies Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, the Byelorussian SSR and the Leningrad oblast with fertilizer.
6. "It is estimated that the Maardu phosphorite deposits equal 504.6 million tons.
7. "The Maardu Combine has a 'building trust' of its own which does all its building. A worker's settlement has been built in the mining area with an electric power station, an elementary school, a 'people's house' (club), a hospital, etc.

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8. "A narrow-gauge railway leads from Maardu to the Lagedi station on the Tallin-Leningrad railway, where the phosphorite is reloaded for dispatch to the Soviet Union.
9. "The manager of the Combine is Franz Budrik (a Jew from USSR) and the chief engineer is the Soviet (fnu) Beliaiev. Over half of the technical personnel are Soviets and so are about 60 percent of the workers. The secretary of the local CP organization is the Soviet I Poltoranov and even the headmaster of the school is a Soviet. Lately there have been complaints that 'Party-political work' is poorly conducted at Maardu."

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